

EAST SHORE DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
688 East Main Street, Branford CT  
Executive Board Meeting - Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting

Present: Dennis Nastri, Susan Addiss, Michael Pascucilla, Susan Detko,  
Virginia Fallon, Elias Najjar, Darleen Zimmerman

Absent: Elaine Anderson

Meeting called to order by Dennis at 05:43 pm.

Welcome

Public Comments – Wayne Cooke, commented on the Atlantic Wharf site in Branford – RTM members are currently petitioning for clean-up of the site, needing 50 signatures. He discussed the debris piles, dust blowing around, and polluting the area for the past 3 years. He discussed a letter he sent that listed nine (9) concerns. Response from Director Pascucilla noted that two bricks were tested, results were negative for asbestos and a response letter was sent. "The site does not pose an imminent public health issue to the community." Director Pascucilla - also noted that this issue is a brown field, meaning the DEEP is the lead. DEEP, environmental consultant, and the CT DPH also stated the site does not pose an imminent public health issue to the community. Susan Addiss, commented her experience previously with the DEEP. We are not the lead agency and the local health department does not have input in the issue. My suggestion is that you request a FOI complaint with them requesting all documents.

Tracy Everson, Representative from the 5<sup>th</sup> district in Branford. Reports that the neighbors in the area are complaining of dust. The residents cannot open their windows or the homes will be filled with dust. Director Pascucilla responded to previous complaints which his office received around the time of demolition. He has not heard any other complaints regarding the Atlantic Wharf site. He suggests residents reach-out to his office in the spring should dust become an issue. Representative Thank you for all your all your good work.

Correspondences – none at this time

Darlene motion to approve the November 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes and the December 15, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. Virginia 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.

Audit Review – Michael Solakian, Accountant – Extends his gratitude to the ESDHD for the availability and hard work with virtual audit. He reports "Clean audit", no deficiencies, no irregularities and no significant findings. Operations are in line with the prior year even with the pandemic. "Basically, broke even this past year". No significant differences. Reflected on the MDMA report and page 21 and page 22 which discusses the pandemic and the uncertainty as we go forward into the financial results for the next fiscal year.

Director Pascucilla reported that ESDHD has tapped into the reserve fund with the pandemic. He states we hope to get some reimbursement related to the pandemic. Director also reports that the audit committee continues to review finances quarterly. Currently slightly behind due to COVID-19.

#### Old Business

- Staff Vacancies – Have filled two sanitarian positions. Now currently has 3 sanitarians. Maternal Child Health Supervisor gave a two weeks' notice – currently leads the MCH grant. Part time MRC coordinator position open.

#### New Business

- Coronavirus Update – Local & State Update – Connecticut is currently in a surge and seeing an increase. On 01-12-2021 10.72% positivity rates. We are not experiencing hospital surges in CT at this time. Continues to fluctuate day to day including drop on 1-13-2021 to 6.73%. Director Pascucilla review statistics town by town, cases by age and hospitalizations.
  - School District / Local Health Dept. COVID-19 Coordination – Lots of discussion on are the schools safe. “Yes, they are safe and there is a good system, contact tracing process and continuous communication. Able to keep schools open”.
  - Phase 1B, we have a population of 1.3 million in CT and only 46,000 vaccines are expected to arrive in CT. Continue to vaccinate in January, 2nd vaccines for front line workers and then they will be holding clinics to distribute in Phase 1B to the elderly. Only 250 vaccines per town will be arriving. However, meeting will take place with the towns about prioritization and the logistics. ESDHD is currently keeping a running list of those residents interested in the vaccine.
  - Contact Tracing & Testing – over 100 cases in one day. Currently using state contact tracers with overload.
  - CT DPH Funding / Per-capita Funding – Received some COVID-19 funding. The towns received more funding. Towns received total of 900,000 for district in COVID-19 relief fund. The health department did not have access to these funds. ESDHD is going to propose a higher per capita rate for next year. Currently \$8.99 and requesting \$11.50 per capita. An increase was discussed with all Town CEO's.
  - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Grant limited supply- spending money down. This second grant will not last the year. This is why we are requesting an increased per capita rate.
  - Inspection & Enforcement – Still receiving complaints. Sanitarians are currently doing a COVID-19 inspection in response to the complaints. In addition, sanitarians are doing daily/regular surveillance to all businesses.
- COVID Vaccination Clinics / State Phase Vaccination Schedule – Coming soon. In the planning phase, which is very difficult because we are not sure how much vaccine or when the vaccine we will receive.

- Mobile Public Health Clinic Status – Ambulance

Director's Report

- PHAB Accreditation Application Status – Taking a while, moving along, interrupted by COVID-19 tracing and vaccine planning.
- Union Contract Negotiation Committee / New Contract – Finalized the contract. Time off carrying over to sick bank is in discussion. Currently only have one employee that has a significant number of hours that can't be carried over to sick bank because that is maxed out.
- ESDHD PH Activity Reports (Environmental, Emerg. Preparedness, Education & Nursing) – to be sent to the board for review.
- ESDHD Budget 2020-2021- Status – He will be presenting the per capita rate of \$11.50 to the towns.

Meeting Adjourned by Dennis at 7:24 p.m.

Next meeting is February 11<sup>th</sup> via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

*Angela Carrano*

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